

Journal
of
THOMAS NYE
written during
A Journey between Montreal & Chicago
in 1837

EDITED BY
HUGH McLELLAN

CHAMPLAIN
Privately Printed at the *Moorsfield Press*
1932



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Foreword

THE JOURNEY described in this "diary or journal of dates, expenses & some memorandums & remarks," as Mr. Nye called it in a letter to his brothers, naturally divides itself into two parts. The first, from *Montreal* to *Chicago*, in which Mr. Nye follows the *St. Lawrence River*, by stage and boat, to *Kingston, Ontario*, and by steamers through the *Great Lakes*. The second part comprises the return to *Montreal*: overland to *Detroit*, by steamer to *Cleveland*, and overland the rest of the distance.

It is to be borne in mind that on the return trip Mr. Nye is accompanied by his bride, *Corinna*, the daughter of his old friend, *Ariel Bowman*. The real purpose of this long journey was to solicit her hand, and, although he had known the *Bowmans* for some years in *Montreal*, there are traces in the Journal of Mr. Nye's uncertainty as to the outcome of the venture. The marriage, however, was celebrated in *Chicago* on December 5, 1837.

Thomas Nye was the youngest son of *Elias* and *Elizabeth (Bartlett) Nye*. He was born August 23, 1801, in *Carver, Massachusetts*, and soon after—in 1805—his

parents, with their six children, moved to *Burlington, Vermont*. *Thomas* graduated from the *University of Vermont* in 1822; went to *Montreal* the same year to study law in the office of *John Boston, Esq.*, and was admitted to the *Bar of Lower Canada* in 1827. He practised law in *Montreal* until his death, which occurred in that city, May 15, 1877.

From this Journal, and from his letters, we can picture *Thomas Nye* as being of an inquisitive and observant nature; without much concern with the vanities of mankind, but alive to natural beauty; methodical, economical, and intensely interested in his profession.

The manuscript of the Journal, which bears the endorsement, "Mem^{dms} of Journey to Illinois in 1837", covers fifteen pages, each 5 by 8 inches in size. It is written, apparently from day to day, in Mr. *Nye's* small and angular hand, with many interlineations and abbreviations, frequent use of capitals and the ampersand, scanty punctuation, and no paragraph divisions—most of the dates being in the narrow margin. Changes from the manuscript are thus indicated, but the sequence of words and the spelling of proper names—many of which are phonetic—have been carefully followed. Had the manuscript been exactly reproduced, according to the more scientific method, the Journal would appear one continuous string of words.

Thomas Nye wrote two long letters concerning the journey: the first at *Fort Gratiot*, and the second after his return to *Montreal*. They refer in detail to many observations, especially as to soil and climate, and men-

tion several persons omitted in the Journal. They have been printed, (Two Letters/of/Thomas Nye/Relating to/A Journey from Montreal to Chicago/in 1837/*Champlain*, 1931. pp.15), and form an important complement to this Journal.

The first transcription of the Journal was done in *Paris*, and two rescripts made in the Provençal town of *Tarascon*, during the winter of 1929-30, but the work still needed such further revision as has been generously supplied by Miss *Eleanor J. Conway* of the *Chicago Historical Society*, and by Mr. *Francis J. Audet* of the *Public Archives of Canada*. Mr. *Audet* has recently published an article on *Thomas Nye* in *La Revue du Droit of Quebec*.

HUGH McLELLAN

Champlain, N. Y., July 26, 1932

Journal of Thomas Nye

On a Journey between Montreal and Chicago

in 1837

Montreal, L.C., Saturday, 28 Oct., 1837, 10 o'clock.

Paid fare 40/- to *Prescott, U. C.* Embarked in stage with Miss *McIntosh*, quadroon boy *Charley* and Doct. *J's. Hodges* of *Antigua, W. I.*, Mr. Captⁿ *Wilkins* and Mr. *Cline* and *McPherson*. The morning sun shone, and promised a fine day, but soon changed to raw and windy; the ground being wet and muddy after long rainy weather. I suffered much, having watched till near 3 o'clock in the morning, and being stupid neglected to button up properly. The wind strong and cold. Embarked the *Hy Brougham*; dined at 2:15 o'clock, paying 2/6. Made [] miles to *Cascades*; still cold and raw. Embarked in stage and went over the most dangerous road in its worse state, having left at about 6 o'clock, I passed the *Cedars Village*, about [] miles, and arrived at *Coteau du Lac* at about 10 o'clock, where I embarked with same company on the *Neptune* steamer, and took coffee, paying 1/6. Twelve miles from *Cascades* I saw near *Coteau* [] *Fort*.

Sunday, 29 October. I went to bed but slept none. Mrs. *Wilkins* left the stage at *Cedars*. *J. H. Dorwin* accompanied me in the steamer, with four men and teams of four horses, bound for *Chicago*. I arrived at

Cornwall, U.C., at about 6 o'clock, a.m., and stopped at *Charley's Inn* and broke fast at near 10 o'clock and dined at 2:15 o'clock and took tea at 6 o'clock and retired at 8 o'clock and slept pretty well, though disturbed by person knocking at my door, No. 7, for Doct. (*J's Hodges*) in No. 8; Miss *McIntosh* being attacked by cramp.

30 October. I rose at 5 o'clock and embarked in stage for *Long Sault*, 12 miles distant, where I arrived at 9:15 and embarked *Dolphin* for *Prescott*. I paid 7/- for three meals and bed at *Charley's*. Broke fast at 10 o'clock and dined at 2 o'clock; paying 4/6. From *Cornwall* passed *Mil Roches* and *Moulinette* in sight of the canal being constructed. *Cornwall* is 35 miles from *Coteau du Lac*. At *Long Sault*, *Geo. P. Jarvis*, District Judge of Eastern District, embarked for *Brockville* for hearing special matters, a week's trials to be had week ensuing. Passed *Osnabruck, E.* and *West Williamsburg, Matilda* and *Edwardsburg*. Saw *Stacy's Island*, sold to a Scotchman for £3,250. Touched at *Church's Landing* and *McLeod's Landing*, passing *Louisville* and *Waddington, N. Y.*, and touched at *Williamsburg, E. and W.*, and at *Munro's Point*. Miss *McIntosh* is first cousin of Sir *Ja's McIntosh*, and born in *England*, educated in *Edinburg*; is over 50 of age, and travelling with her physician. [] miles to *Prescott*, where embarked *St. George* and left about 7:30 o'clock for *Queenston*, [] miles. About 9 o'clock touched at *Brockville*, the handsomest village in *U. C.* Leaving *Brockville* after 5 miles the vessel was run upon rocks upon the *N. Y.* side, about 10 o'clock, where it remained opposite *Morristown* till

9 or 10 p.m., 31 October, when the *Brockville* came and broke the smaller chain cable and broke away the *St. George's* soft wood capstan with the longer cable, without success, trying to draw the *St. George* off; and at 12 o'clock night, embarked the *Brockville* for *Kingston* and arrived at 8 a.m. and broke fast on board and paid the fare, 10/-.

1 November. Embarked *Great Britain* for *Queens-ton, U.C.* Left at 1 o'clock, p.m., for *Oswego*, 60 miles up in *N. York*. At going out passed the hospital and penitentiary (and Marine Railway) above *Kingston*, and *Grand* or *Long Island* on *N. York* side. Going into *Kingston* passed the military hospital, *Cedar Island*, *Fort Henry*, *Kingston Bay* or harbour leading to mouth of *Rideau Canal*, and a long draw-bridge across the mouth of the harbour or *Bay*, leading to mouth of canal to the fortifications.

At 7:15 o'clock, p.m., arrived at *Oswego*. Remained until 3:30 o'clock, p.m., 2^d November. Left for *Cobourg*, 100 miles. Blowing contrary, hard, and Lake very rough. At 4 o'clock, a.m., arrived at *Cobourg, U.C.*, and at 6 o'clock left for *Toronto*, and paid fare, 30/-.

Saw at *Oswego*, in Township of *Scriby*, remains of *French Fort Ontario*, intended to be rebuilt; and in *West Oswego*, at the angle of *Oswego River*, the site of the old *English Fort Oswego*, the eminence now levelled and fronting the Harbour, protected by pier or breakwater, and light-house at its extremity, next the entrance. Saw Lieut. *Smead*, of U. S. Engineers, and now rebuilding the pier or breakwater with squared

stone at national expense. *Oswego* is governed by President (Mr. *Brewster*) and trustees; it contains 5 or 6,000 persons, of whom 12 to 1500 are supposed *Irish*, having a Roman Catholic Church and preacher, *Rogers*, (*Irish*).

Passed *Gibraltar Point* on the right going in to *Toronto*, having a light-house at its extremity, and arrived at 1:30 o'clock, p.m., having touched at *Cobourg* in the morning early did not rise to see it. At *Toronto* found the *St. George* got off; hailed therefrom by *J. H. Dorwin*, but it left immediately for *Hamilton*.

Went about *Toronto* somewhat, not liking it much: buildings being nearly all of brick and affecting too much show and peculiarity of taste—city dirty. Saw Ch. Justice *Robinson* presiding, and *Wood*, associate. *R.* very fine young looking man. Case of assault and battery. The Judge's bench handsome and elegant; court room dirty, inconvenient, cramped, and the Bar looking rather slovenly, wearing gowns but no bands. *Baldwin* and *Bell* counsel conducting case. Saw Governor's carriage or barouch or half one. Saw floating baths but not a store at dock. New Parliament Houses of brick, one story, uniform, appearing well and fronting Lake.

Left *Toronto* 4:45 o'clock, p.m. Seventy miles from *Cobourg* to *Toronto*, and 36 to *Niagarah*, 43 to *Queenston*. At 8:30 touched at *Niagarah Town* and *Village*, and saw *Niagarah Light* at left entering the *River Niagarah*. Left at 9 o'clock, p.m. *Fort Niagarah* on the *New York* side and *Fort George*, near town or village of *Newark*, on *Canada* side. Arrived at *Queenston* about

10 o'clock, touched there and crossed the boat to *Lewiston*, N. Y. Slept on board and broke fast at *Lewiston*; paid $2/3$. Entered Rail Road car; paid $2/3$. Met *Lockport* cars at junction and left for *Niagara Falls*. Saw *Brock's Monument* on *Queenston Height*. Stopped at *Tonawanda Creek and Village*, passing over *Erie Canal*. Left and got view of the *Falls* little before arriving at 11:10 o'clock, a.m., 4 November, 1837.

Landed at *Eagle Tavern* and went directly to *Falls*, descended stairs and crossed over the *Niagara River* with 4 ladies and 3 men and ferryman. Went up to *Table Rock* with *James Stephens* of *N. York City*; paid 18 cents. Bought *O. H. Steel's Book of the Falls*,¹ of woman at the museum; paid $2/6$. *Lundys Lane* distant a mile or half one. Remained viewing *Falls* till 2:30 o'clock, p.m.; cut 3 sticks and broke off some pieces of stone under *Table Rock*, descending by stairs there. Did not enregister name at Register Office—book offered gratis—was disgusted at the vulgarity of the sentiments and observations in the different books on the table. Broke knife in cutting stick and left or lost it there. Recrossed it, paid 18 c^{ts}. Returned to hotel, got lunch; paid $1/3$, and $3/9$ for fare to *Buffalo*, and left by cars and passed by *Tonawanda* as before stated. Saw some *Tuscarora Indians*, well dressed, at *Falls*.

Arrived at *Buffalo* at about 6 o'clock and went by coach to *American Hotel*, kept by *J's Hodges*. Retired

¹ The Book of Niagara Falls. By Horatio A. Parsons, A.M. Third Edition. Buffalo: Oliver G. Steele. 1836. In the copy thus purchased by Mr. Nye he had written "What Nonsense!" and "Bah!" against sentimental and theological passages on pages 33 and 35.

at about 10:30 o'clock and went about town at evening. Paid \$2 for day's board and went to lodge at *Temperance House*, kept by *Wm. Madison*, in company with Doct^r *Joseph Hull* of *Dartmouth, N. Hampshire*. At past 10 o'clock, Sunday, 5 November, went to hear *Mr. Hosmer, Unitarian*. Entered name on board *Cleveland Steam Boat* for *Detroit*.

Wind bound, 6th and 7th, Monday and Tuesday; wind and boat bound. Paid 7/6 to inn-keeper and took baggage on board *Constellation*. Dined and supped on board.

8 November. Left in *Constellation*, Capt. *McQueen*, at 10 o'clock, a.m. At 12:30 o'clock passed in sight *Silver Creek Village*, and at 2 o'clock *Dunkirk H.* and *Light*, *Van Buren H.*, *Portland H.*, and *Light* at 4:30; 8 o'clock passed *Erie* and *Presque Isle Light* in *Pennsylvania*; 9:30 o'clock, p.m., touched and wooded at *Coneaught* in *Ohio*, and *Light*. [] o'clock at *Astabula*, touched; 7:30 a.m. at *Grand River* or *Fairport*; 10 a.m. landed at *Cleveland*. Examined the town. Took in 700 b^{shs} bituminous coal from the *Ridge*, 60 miles distant, at 14 c^{ts} pr. b^l.

10 November. Touched at *Huron, Oh.*, and wooded at 3 or 4 o'clock, a.m., 50 miles from *Cleveland*. Left for *Detroit*, 60 miles thence. Half past 11 o'clock saw *Malden* or *Amherstburg, U.C.*, *Light-house* and 2 wind-mills at entrance of *River Detroit*; passed village of *Sandwich, U.C.*, and arrived at *Detroit, Michigan*, at 2:30 o'clock, p.m. Paid \$8 fare from *Buffalo*. *Windsor* and *Sandwich Ferry* by steam-boat opposite at termi-

nation of road from *Hamilton, U.C.* [] miles from *London, U.C.*, and [] from [].

Examined the town [*Detroit*]. Legislature in session in State House; saw Governor *Stevens T. Mason*. Rail Road car start on the [] Rail Road. Remained over night. [In the] forenoon parted with Mr *Hazelton* and *Grissons (German)*, who took waggon for *Ann Arbor*.

11 November. At 1 o'clock, p.m., left in the *Constellation* Steamer for *Chicago*, going up *Detroit River* 8 miles to *Lake St. Clair*, and passed *Grosse Pointe*. In *Lake St. Clair* passed the brig *Julian Palmer* of *Buffalo* at anchor; and at 7 o'clock, p.m., stopped at *Pointe Du-chêne* or city of *Algonac* and wooded; went on to the landing and saw road to *Mount Clemens*; this in *River St. Clair*. Met *J. Livingston* on board; former clerk of *H. Gates & Co.*, now in *American Fur Company*, stationed with *G[abriel] Franchère*, at *Sault Ste. Marie*, at entrance of *Lake Superior* on *River Ste. Marie*.¹

Proceeded, after retiring to bed, to *Newport*, 8 miles, and remained till 9 a.m., Sunday, 12 November. Left, and at 10 o'clock saw four Indian wigwams and many *Indians*, approaching *Macomb* or *Black River* and *Palm-er*, (County Town of *St. Clair County*). Touched, and landed two ladies at 10 o'clock.

[It] is 75 miles from *Detroit* to *Fort Gratiot*, and 250 thence to *Mackinac*. *Lake St. Clair* is 30 miles wide and 30 long and nearly round.

[At] half past 3 o'clock, p.m., entered *Lake Huron*,

¹ It was at this point in his journey that Mr. *Nye* wrote the first of the two letters to his brothers, already published.

passing *Fort Gratiot*. Saw a monument in Cholera Military Grave Yard where a man jumped overboard in fright; and *Fort Gratiot Light House* at the very point. Pitch of the current very strong on entering *L. Huron*. Saw new *Milwaukie City*, laid out at left on the Lake. Ran [] miles to *Saginaw Bay*. Very strong sea and head wind; boat tossed very much all night. About 9:30 o'clock, p.m., passed the *Madison Stm B^t*, hailed us, but not being regarded till too late, each passed rapidly—after the *M.* appearing desirous to round to—on their way.

13 November, 8 o'clock, a.m., discovered the other side of *Saginaw Bay*; saw *Thunder Bay Islands* and light house. At 3 o'clock, p.m., arrived at *Presque Isle Bay* or *Harbor*; quite tranquil. No landing place; wooded by scows—\$3 p^r cord. Four residents: cutters and families. Shore lime rock 12 miles up; no roads open. Wolf smelled of man sleeping under tree; and Captⁿ. *Glover* shot elk hereabouts. Shore fine for harbour—water is worked through a passage, cutting off peninsula to wading depth. Paid \$22.00 balance fare to *Chicago*. At 10 o'clock, p.m., left and bid good-night to 2 fires on shore of the main land of *Presque Isle*—the scows having continued to furnish wood all the time.

14 November. At 7 o'clock, a.m., saw light house on *Bois Blanc Island*—far at the starboard. Saw *Moose Island* and *Point Detour* or *Drummond's Island* at entrance of passage to *Sault Ste. Marie*: Mr. *Livingston's* route by canoe. At past 9 o'clock landed at *Fort Michilimacinac*. Saw *Indians* of the *Chippewa* and *Ottawa*

tribes or bands cooking on the shore. Water surprisingly clear and transparent. Boat and passengers bought fine trout of 25 to 30 lbs. for 50 cts., and white fish for \$1 per dozen. Saw Mr. [*H. R.*] *Schoolcraft's* house, the Indian Agent; that of *Sam'l. Abbott*, agent of *A. Fur Co.*, Presbyterian and Catholic churches and 2 Mission Houses; yellowish and of wood. Weather sunny and fine as could be expected. Remained an hour. Went up into the *Fort*, no men there; 2 brass cannon, 11^{cwt} 3^{qrs} 4^{lbs} and 11, 3, 18, and iron mortar or howitzer. No wood; left about 9:30 for the *Manitou Isles* for wood—owners asked \$4 for their wood. *Fort* neat and handsome; no flag up. Saw remains of *English Fort* a quarter of a mile distant and 100 feet at least higher. Saw fishing vessel coming from *Pointe du Cbêne* and *Milicoke Bay* and *Island St. Helena* above *Isle of Macinac* at starboard going out. Thirty miles only thro woods to foot of *Lake Superior*. Three mails only last winter—go by foot, after getting on main land, over the beach of *Saginaw Bay* to *Saginaw City* at mouth of *Saginaw River*.

Saw [] *Biddle*, cousin of *Nic. B.*, worth \$200,000. With his partner, *Drew*, got \$60,000 old claims from *U. S.* this year. Has *Pottiwattimie Ind'n* wife and 3 fine children—some sons. *Schoolcraft* married half-breed also. Next year to build a Council House for residence of *Ind'ns* coming to trade, and for treaties and [for] them to deliberate in. Mission Houses sold out and done.

Ninety miles by water to *Sault Ste. Marie*. "Round *Island*" opposite *F't. Mackinaw*. Canoe with sails met

and passed us on starboard going down *Straits* towards *Mackinaw*. Beautiful passing up *M'w Straits*, about 22 miles. Rock sides of island and heights loom up finely in leaving, and ahead beautiful little islands looming up out of the bright water; they seem to be single and clumps or tufts of trees standing in bright water. Entrance to *M.* and passage to *Straits* usually exceedingly rough; today very fine and sunny.

Saw at 10:30 in the distance the Light or Bøy Ship, appearing a single column, and passed a fine schooner appearing square or scow built, but as high as a sloop: two masts and square fore top-sail, all up, on the starboard, gently bearing down; and at 12 o'clock passed the Light Ship on the left. Twenty-two miles through *Straits* to *Lake Michigan*. Light-Master's salary \$500.¹

At 8:30 o'clock, p.m., arrived at *Manitou Isles* to wood; sandy beach appearing wooded with spruce; went on shore. Saw bottom small stones distinctly at 14 feet depth of water, at 10:30 o'clock and no moon out. Drank some on shore, and cut canes, and got variety of stones and pebbles, and sacrificed 3-bladed knife to Manitou, throwing it overboard with stones. About 6,000 acres size.

15 November. Four o'clock, a.m., left *Manitou Island*, and at 7 o'clock—sun just appearing—almost directly at starboard, easterly, saw the *Sleeping Bear Bank*, 707 feet high and 6 miles long. A beautiful bank, as perfectly regular, like canal bank, slope, or steep in-

¹ The Biennial Register, Washington, 1838, gives \$500 as the compensation of *William Keith*, the keeper of this floating light.

clined plane made by hand of man—of whitish sand, light, and [which] drifting or blowing away, covers trees and kills them, the dead tops just appearing above ground. And on the centre appears to lie and repose a huge black bear, being a clump of trees of that shape, clearly visible at 50 or 60 miles distant. *St. Josephs* is clearly visible from *Chicago*.

It was beautiful yesterday bearing down into the sun's face or eye; could discern the *Bank*, seeming a light or light-giving level cloud in the distance, at 7 or half-past, p.m.

Woke at starting, but slept and dreamed heavenly, happily and fortunately, and of one unnamed; for some time woke and slumbered, regretting not having fair sight of *Bear Bank*, and most agreeably surprised by Mr. *Bennett*, of [], *Green Bay*, rousing me to sight of *Bank*.

At 10:15 o'clock, a.m., out of sight of land till about 12 o'clock, when crossed *Lake* westerly sufficient to discover *Wisconsin* land, intending to land Mr *Bennet* and Mr *Lewis Rouse*¹ and friends at *Manitou Wauk* on way to *Green Bay, Wisconsin*. At 4 o'clock, p.m., off [] and *Twin River Point*, approaching the two rivers intersecting at mouth. St^m mill building there. Saw sail boat and 3 men in it. *Cheboiegan P*[] near [?]. Shore of *Wisconsin* sand heaps blown up, and low spruce or cedar, and wet; but called good back.

Americans seemed proud or distant; strange to me, reserve only or modesty.

¹ *Lewis Rouse*, son of *Jacques Rouse*, who settled *Rouses Point, N. Y.*

Manitou in *Chep[pewa]* / *Potta[wattimie]* is spirit; *chemanitou* is evil spirits; *necmanitou*, good spirits; *keses*, the sun; *manitouwauk* is river of spirits.

About 5 o'clock—sun setting over *Wisconsin*; clouds, beneath tinged with crimson, hung most beautifully—landed Mr. *Lewis Rouse* and friends and Mr. *Bennet* to go 40 miles to *Green Bay*, their home. Saw mill and buildings at mouth of the *Manitouwauk River*. Splendid moonlight night, and beautiful morning run down in the sun's face, arriving at *Chicago* at 12:30 p.m. Fort at left on entering. Town a city. Lighthouse near the *Fort Dearborn*.

16 November, 1837. Arrived in *Chicago* from the *Constellation*, steamer belonging to *Holt, Palmer & Co.*, of *Buffalo*, at 12 o'clock, and lodged at *Lake House*,¹ after delightful passage up *Lake Michigan*: 22 miles through *Straits* and [] miles from *Michillimacinac* to *Manitou Islands*; 90 thence to *Manitouwauk* and [] to *Milwaukee*, passed in the night, and 90 thence to *Chicago*.

Dined at 1 with my friend, *Jno. Godard*, Esq., and left 17th, after dinner. Paid \$2 for day and left (after examining the city unsatisfactorily) at 4 o'clock in *Jno. T. Ackerman's* waggon for Mr. *Ariel Bowman's* at *Dunklee's Grove*,² with Mr. *Lewis*, from *Boston*, going to *Rock River Country*. Paid \$1.50 to *Gray's Grove*,³ and

¹ *Lake House*, built in 1835; located on the corners of *Kinzie*, *Rush* and *Michigan Streets*.

² *Dunklee's Grove*, on *Salt Creek*, in the town of *Addison*. It was about three miles in length and half a mile in width.

³ *Gray's Grove*, on *Salt Creek*; contained about 100 acres.

paid him \$1 thence, one $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, to Mr. *Bowman's*.

Saw coming out *Chicago* on prairie, stage coach and 6 horses on prairie, and another soon after, and then a handsome private carriage and 4 horses, and many teams 4, 5, 6 yoked ox waggons.

Prairie very wet. Suddenly became dark, but fires commenced at different points on the prairie at some distance, which alarmed me and fellow traveller a little, but waggoner did not regard them, knowing the roads would stop them. The effect was extremely picturesque and almost sublime—the fire extending for some miles in width—and an intervening grove causing an appearance quite resembling the burning of a large city or large block of buildings with columns, like what I should suppose the appearance of the *Kremlin* burning at *Moscow*. The fires had increased by 7:30 or 8 o'clock to a terrific extent, and rising all around, and at times and places to considerable height, say 20 ft, and appearing to be very near—as is the fact as to all objects and distances on prairie, it being difficult to judge of space, at least till further experience, there being no limits or objects by which the eye can compare.

The fires, rising and swelling as they rise, rolling terrifically, depict above upon the black ground of a dark night the most splendid and delicate tints of vermillion it is possible to imagine; so that altogether the splendors of the scene—perhaps enhanced by the preceding feeling of alarm and agitation approaching to terror—became changed in high relief to a pleasure approaching sublimity, and all idea of discomfort attending

such a dark route under expectation of speedy ruin, was entirely removed; all appearing as light and brilliant as if all was lighted expressly for the occasion.

And approaching *Kettlestring's*¹ (the *Yorkshireman*) small house, where we were to stop for the night, the grove near and about it was considerably on fire in tops and bottoms of many trees, and running thro the oak underwood, seemed to threaten the houses, and while we whipped thro some places on fire, we found neighbours running and many engaged in endeavouring, with pails and dishes, to extinguish the fire; the wind rising the while, created an excitement most novel, and at the time alarming.

At the house, greatly to my surprise and astonishment and infinite pleasure, on alighting I was taken by the hand by Mr *Edwin Hine* and 3 or 4 of his companions—who had arrived in another waggon—several of whom had come thro the Lakes with me and whom I supposed left at *Chicago*; tho, upon recollection, I had seen them start in the afternoon. The pleasure caused by this unexpected meeting with these ingenuous young men, under the circumstances, bound for *Rock River Country*, *Dickson's Ferry*, was one of the most exquisite I ever was sensible of—so like the joys of youth—and was only alloyed by the defective accommodations for the night, and the uncertainties and forebodings of a possibly disastrous voyage and weighing down of spirits ensuing. Many neighbors filled the room and talked rather late, so that with pantaloons on

¹ Now *Oak Park*. Settled as early as 1833 by *John Kettlestrings*.

and fellow passenger and waggoner lying in one bed slept but little, and paying but $12\frac{1}{2}$ cts apiece for bed.

18 November. Started early, and having crossed the *River Des Plaines* near a steam saw-mill, broke fast at Mr. [], paying $18\frac{3}{4}$ cts., and after crossing prairie to sight of *Gray* at *Dutchman's Grove*,¹ parted with regret from Mr. *Hine* and companions, and at *Gray's*, the *German's*, took waggon to Mr. *Bowman's* and arrived at about 10 o'clock, a.m. Mr. *B.* absent; met [].

19 November, Sunday. At Mr. *B's*.

20 November. Went to *Meacham's Grove*,² 6 miles, to Sheriffs Court; trying claim to cattle and waggons &c. seized. Mr. *B.* juror. Laws and statutes of *Illinois* complained of as confused and ill digested. Verdict for claimant. No charge by Sheriff, but opinions as to law of evidence. Appealed. Fees of juror 25 cts, summoned by party verbally on morning of same day.

4 December, 1837, 9 o'clock, a.m., having remained at *Dunkly Grove, Cook Co., Illinois*, since [18]th Nov^r, left in waggon with Mr. *Ariel Bowman*³ of that place, and *Corinna*, his oldest daughter, for *Chicago*, where we arrived, after a tedious journey over the prairie, at 7 o'clock, p.m. Stopped at "*American Inn*"⁴ with Mr. *B.* House dirty and most inconvenient and food poor.

¹ *Dutchman's Grove*, or *Point*, is now *Niles, Illinois*.

² Now *Bloomington*. Settled by *Silas, Lyman* and *Harvey Meacham*.

³ *Ariel Bowman* had been a publisher, bookseller and bookbinder in *Montreal*; in 1832 his place of business was on *rue St.-Francois-Xavier*. In 1840 he moved to *Chicago* from *Dunklee's Grove*, and was one of the earliest bookbinders in that city. (See *Andreas, Hist. of Chicago*.)

⁴ Formerly the *Steamboat Hotel*, on *North Water*, near *Kinzie Street*.

Kept by *Cook*. *Corinna* lodged at *E. Peck's*.¹

5 December. Slept little or none; rose and suffered all day with violent head ache. Paid barber 25^{cts} for cutting my hair badly. Paid \$7 for buffalo hide for travel.² Paid \$1.25 to *G. K. Teulon* for marriage license; the fee \$1.18.³ Paid *Hinton*, Baptist preacher, \$5 for marriage fee of *Corinna* and self.⁴

6 December. Paid inn keeper \$1.62, his bill, and left in stage mail waggon with *Corinna* at about 6 o'clock, a.m., for *Detroit*. Paid \$15 for 2 fares to *Niles'* in *Michigan*, 106 miles. Weather delightful. Saw a black wolf just before sunrise, on sand hill between road and lake, just out of *Chicago* about a mile; looked impudent, and after we passed, within 6 rods, sat upon his haunches facing towards *Chicago* quite unconcerned, not having budged a step.

A little cold on arriving at *Calumet*, 12 miles, at inn where got superb breakfast. Paid 75 cts. and left at about 10 o'clock, crossing *Calumet River Bridge* there, and soon leaving lake shore alternate road, and having seen wreck of [] steam boat sticking in sand near shore. Sun bright; most delightful ride of 8 miles thro oak timbered and flooded land, to bridge over *Calumet*, few rods above line of division between *Illinois* and

¹ Probably *Ebenezer Peck*, an attorney; formerly of *Duncklee's Grove*.

² The bill for this buffalo hide (robe) has been preserved. It bears this endorsement: *Walker & Co. Receipt of Bill of Buffalo hide of Peter Cohen 5 Dec'r. 1837.*

³ A pencil copy of this license was made by Mr. *Nye*, the original having been signed by *Geo. Davis*.

⁴ The certificate is signed *Isaac T. Hinton*, Pastor of the Baptist Church, *Chicago*, and witnessed by *Ariel Bowman* and *George K. Teulon*.

Indiana. Entered latter at near 2 o'clock, and obdurate driver would not cross bridge, fearing getting horses' legs thro causeway. River much swollen. Paid 75^{cts} for tea &c. at trapper's hut there, called an inn, and waited stage to arrive opposite, till near 5 o'clock. Crossed it lower and entered waggon, passing most singular appearing country, being a succession of long vistas parallel with river, but quite straight and regular swells of land, showing narrow ranges of trees, about 2 rods wide, and between them scoop-like hollows, with some water, some 10 rods wide, and looking like regular avenues or roads, as if assuredly planted and arranged by art, as far as could be seen; most beautiful appearance, but perhaps too wet now for use, and called unhealthy. Very pleasant ride thro, and arriving at 9 o'clock nearly at bridge—out of order—and crossed *Calumet* on rope ferry-boat and stopped at *Gibson's Inn*, [] miles. At 10 o'clock left in waggon, changed, and arrived at 12 in night, or past, at *Liverpool*, having passed the 11 or 12 miles thro beautiful oak openings and moonlight, and crossed the *Calumet* again; changed.

8 December, 8 o'clock, a.m. Left *Michigan City, Berrien Co.*, for *Niles*, 44 miles. Paid \$3.50. Half-past 11 arrived at *Laporte*, 12 miles, at breakfast and dinner. Paid \$1 and at one left for *Terre Coupée*, 20 miles over rolling prairie. The richest land held in large tracts, well fenced in Virginia,¹ and good houses. This kind of prairie about 4 miles each extent. Saw an *Indian* trail distinctly on the right, and threshing machine

¹ Virginia fence: a zig-zag fence of rails crossing at their ends.

working by 7 men—one unbinding, one driving, one feeding, 4 raking off straw—doing 500 bushels per day, oats, doing work[ing] beautifully. Landed at store and post-office at *Byron Village*, part[?] in *Kankakee Township*; came to extended, well-timbered forest. Watered at *Hudson Village*, side of fine lake, 2 miles over; pretty yellow sail boat. After more forest, very fine, passed *Terre Coupée Township*. Arrived at *Herds*[?] at 6:30, supped, paid \$1 and left for *Niles*, 12 or 13 miles, and arrived at 11.30 p.m., situated on *St. Joseph River*, 25 miles from mouth—small steam boats come up here. Paid fare, \$11.00, to *Coldwater*, 80 miles. Crossed *Michigan State Line* 9 miles before *Niles*.

9 December, 1 a.m., left for *Edwardsburg*, 12 miles; arrived at 4:30 o'clock, a.m., situate at *Bird's-nest*; prairie very fine. Left about 5 o'clock for *Porter* in *Cass Co.*, 12 long miles—all of 14; arrived at about 9:30 o'clock, took breakfast, paid 75^{cts}. Left for *White Pigeon*, prairie 12 miles; passed *Mottville T'ship*, and arrived at 2 o'clock, p.m., at *Wh. Pigeon Township*. Left for *Sherman*, 19 miles, and arrived at 6 o'clock, p.m., supped, paid \$1. Left for *Bronson T.*, 8 miles—worst road—and arrived at 9 o'clock, and left for *Coldwater Township*, 12 miles, and arrived at 1:30 o'clock, having passed *Hog Creek* and *Cold Stream Brook*, bearing saw-mills, in *Branch Co.*, and same Co. Town.

10 December, Sunday. Paid \$8 fare, self and *Corinna*, to *Tecumseh*, 58 miles; and 18 miles to *Jones Ville*; passed *Allen*, and arrived at 7:30 o'clock, a.m. Broke fast and paid \$1. Half-past 8 left, and stopped and

exchanged horses at 12:30 p.m., in *Hinsdale Co.*, 14 miles, at *Somerset T.*; passed *Woodstock*, passed [], and arrived at *Cambridge*. To *Springville* at 4, 14 miles, lunched, 50 p^d, and left. Passed *Franklin T.*, arrived at *Tecumseh*, 12 miles, at 9, supped, paid 5/- and fare to *Detroit*—\$8, 58 miles—left, arrived at *Clinton*, 5 miles, at 10:30 p.m. Passed *Saline* and *Pittsfield Post Office*.

11 December. Arrived at 6:30 o'clock, a.m., at *Ypsilanti*, 28 miles. Broke fast, paid \$1 and at 9 o'clock left for *Detroit*, 30 miles — 11 miles to *Canton* and *Nankin* and 20 to *Dearborn*, containing *U. S. Arsenal & Establishment*, containing [?] acres. Arrived at 4 o'clock at *Arsenal*, and *Dearborn* is mile off. Captain *Webb*, formerly commissioned and now U. S. Merchant overseer of Works. Hollow square containing officers quarters and d^o for soldiers—5 laborers[?] here—one story building for guns and carriages, a sutler's shop, work shops, arsenal—4 stories—containing guns, pistols and swords, in boxes. Saw piles of balls. Six pounder is there. Captain *Howard*, resigned, has splendid cream color house of brick; before arriving at *Arsenal* he made fortune by speculation when troops were once stationed there; has a steam saw mill.

Dined and supped at 5 p.m., and left for *Detroit*, paid 75 cents for both. Crossed *River Rouge* before *Detroit*; arrived at 8 o'clock, p.m., in *Detroit* and stopped at *American Hotel*.

12 December. Broke fast at 10 o'clock and paid \$3.00, and embarked, 3 o'clock, p.m., on board *Columbus St^m B^t of Huron, Ohio*—Capt. *Augustus Walker*—for

Buffalo, weather permitting. Supped at 6 o'clock. Landed at *Malden*; saw fort and steam saw mill, and many *Africans*—they have a considerable settlement back of the town; and said to be 10,000 at *Wilberforce*.¹ Ten o'clock, p.m., saw *Huron Light House*, and landed at *Toledo*, [] miles up *Maumee River* in *Ohio*. Termination of Rail-Road.

13 December. Passed *Sandusky City*, 14 miles back, and *Cunningham's Island* in morning, and at 9 a.m. were at *Huron*, mouth of *River Huron* in *Ohio*. Broke fast. Saw Captain *W's* new St^m B^t building—to be called "*President*" or "*Walk in the Water*"—800 tons.² Left at 3:30 o'clock, p.m. Paid \$16 fare to *Cleveland*. Five o'clock touched at *Black River*, (*Charleston T.*), *Ohio*. Port and light. From *Detroit* to *Toledo* 175 miles, thence to *Huron* 175 miles, to *Black River* 20 miles, 30 miles to *Cleveland*. Arrived at 9 o'clock, p.m.

14 December. Visited the town. Paid fare by stage to *Erie, Penn'a.*, 104 miles, \$10, and left in extra at 2 o'clock, p.m., for *Buffalo*—9 inside and 1 out. Watered at *Euclid*, 7 miles $\frac{1}{2}$ passed *Willoughby*, and *Chagrine River* and *Creek* and mills. At 11:30 supped at *Paynes' ville*, 30 miles—bank and mills—paid \$1; on the *Grand River*, 30 miles from *Cleveland* and 3 miles from lake.

15 December. Passed *Centreville*, and watered at

¹ *Malden* and *Wilberforce* were Canadian settlements.

² Holley's *Picturesque Tourist*, N. Y., 1844, contains an article from the "*Buffalo Commercial Advertiser*" on *Statistics of Steamers of Lake Erie*, including a list of steamers built on that lake. From this list it would appear that the boat mentioned was the *Great Western*, of 780 tons.

Unionville at 4:30 o'clock. At 7:30 a.m. arrived at *Ashtabula* and went 14 miles to *Coneaut*, and broke fast at 11 o'clock, paid 75^{cts}. Left for *Erie*, and arrived at 4:30 o'clock; supped and paid \$1, passing after *Coneaut*, 2 miles, the line of *Ohio* and *Pennsylvania* at *Thayers Inn*. Through *Springfield*, *Girard*, *Elk Creek*, *Fairview*, *Mili Creek* and mills, 22 miles to *Erie*; *Wesley Ville*, *Harbor Creek T.* and *North East T.*, then the State line between *Pennsylvania* and *New York* at *Northville*, 19 miles from *Erie*. Distance 37 miles thro *Pennsylvania*. From *Erie* is 90 miles to *Buffalo*, [] miles to *Fredonia*, [] to *Silver Creek*, [] *Cattaraugus*. By sleigh stage from beyond or near *Ashtabula*.

16 December. Broke fast at *Silver Creek*. Paid \$1.

17 December, Sunday. Arrived at *Buffalo* ½ past 5 o'clock, p.m., at *Clintonville Inn*, *P. Law's*,¹ and supped.

19 December. Left *Buffalo* after breakfast by Rail-Road, 22 miles to *Niagara Fall*, paid \$1.50 fare. Some Volunteers took out 5^{lbs} iron balls and beef and powder from carriage at opposite *Navy Island*, and near *Fort Schlosser*. Arrived at about 11 o'clock, a.m. Crossed to *Canada*, paid \$0.50.

20 December. Rem^d at *Cottage*, supped and broke fast, paid \$3.00. Recrossed at 12 o'clock, m., paid \$½ and dined at Hotel and paid \$1.25, &^{ca} incl. Paid fare \$1.50 to *Lock-Port*, 24 miles, and left at 2 o'clock, p.m., by Iron Road; arrived at 5 o'clock, p.m., and supped and broke fast—21st—and paid \$3.00; and paid fare \$6 to *Rochester*, and left at 9:30 o'clock, a.m., by *Ridge*

¹ *Prentiss Law*. See *Two Letters of Thomas Nye*, p. 8.

Way Road, passing *Oak Orchard* and *Creek*, *Yates*, *Gaines*, *Albion*, *Clarkson*. At 6 o'clock, p.m., supped at *Clarkson* and paid 75^{cts}, and passing *Brockport*, *Parma*, *Grece*, arrived at *Carthage Village* and *Rochester* $\frac{1}{2}$ past 10 o'clock, p.m., 63 miles from *Lockport*. *Ridge Way* said to be the former shore of *Lake Ontario*, and affording surprisingly even, hard, natural road.

22 December. Crossed aquaduct and saw *Genessee Upper Fall*, 96 feet and flat banks. Great water powers. Very neat jail. Beautiful mill of Mr. *Ely*—9 run of stones; wonderfully compact and neat. Paid \$3 for 2 nights and 1 day.

23 December, 4 o'clock, a.m., left for *Oswego*, 60 miles. Paid fare \$6, and passed *N. Penfield* and *Williamson*. Broke fast and dined at *Great Sodus* and paid \$1. Before saw *Great Sodus Bay* and boys on it—*Little Sodus Bay* [interlined]—skating. Changed to sleigh. Passed *Huron* and supped at *Woolcott* and paid 75, *Sterling*, and arrived at 10:30 o'clock, p.m., at *Oswego* at *Welland House*. Slept. Visited the town and *Fort Oswego*—repaired last war; *Oswego Canal*.

25 December. Paid \$4.50 and fare to *Watertown*; left at 3:30 o'clock, a.m., in an extra. Passed *Scriba*, *New Haven*, *Mexico*, *Union Square*, *Port Ontario*—at mouth of *Black River*—and arrived at *Pulaski Village* at 11:30 o'clock, a.m., 24 miles from *Oswego*, in *Richland T'p.*, *Co. Oswego*. Did not overtake the stage, which got no notice to wait; way bill left behind. *Salmon River* and mills. Salmon in the river, but decreasing; worth \$18 per b^l. Thousands barrells herrings taken

in the Lake—worth \$2.50—and white fish, kind of shad, plenty. Court to sit tomorrow; Judge *Hiram Denio*. Great grazing district and plenty of game and fish. *Masonic Hall* become an extended school house, of brick, 2 stories. Deacon [], a farmer, has 68 cows.

26 December. Embarked in *Syracuse Stage* when it came up at 11 o'clock, for *Watertown*. Mr *Lewis*, Stage Agent, &c., agreeing to pay tavern bill condition of waiting over and not exacting an extra. Passing *Great Sandy Creek* and *Township*—containing *Washingtonville*—*Ellisburg*, *Mannsville*; arrived at *Watertown* on *Black River*—fall and mills, &c. Supped, and slept till one o'clock, a.m.

27 December. Paid bill, \$2.25, and \$7 fare to *Ogdensburg*, and left at about 2 o'clock, a.m., and passed *Pamela*, *LeRay Township* and *Evan's Mills*, *Philadelphia*, *Antwerp*—and broke fast and paid 75—and *Rossie*, *Gouverneur*, *Richville*, *DeKalb*, *Oswegatchie* and *River*—crossed three or four times—*Houvel-Ville*, and arrived at *Ogdensburg* at 5 o'clock, p.m. Paid ferriage, 75^{cts}; &cs., 25^{cts}. Supped at *Prescott*; paid 3/6, and paid fare to *Montreal*, £3-10-0, and left at 10 o'clock, p.m.

28 December. Went 22 miles to *Williamsburg*, 12 miles to *Dickinson's Landing*, 16 miles to *Cornwall*, 16 to *Lancaster* and 16 to head of *Long Sault*. At *Wilkins* broke fast at 12:30 p.m., paid 4/-, and left at one o'clock, p.m. Passed *Cedars*, at *Cascades* changed, crossed to—and over the ice—*Isle Perrot*, to *St. Anne*,

to *Pointe Claire, Lachine*, and arrived at 9 o'clock, p.m., in *Montreal*. *Ogdensburg* and *Prescott* were formerly *Oswegatchie*.

End of Journal

[This list of names, apparently of fellow-passengers on his westward trip, was written in pencil by Mr. Nye on a page of the journal.]

Mr *W. Hart* (called Doctor) of *N. York City*.

Edwin Hine of *Dixon's Ferry* or *Dicksonville, Rock River, Illinois*.

Haynes from *U. Canada* to *Rockford, Ill.*

Brooks, Quaker, *Wayne Co., N. Y.*

Breese, firm of *Taylor & Breese, Chicago*.

Hayss, Chicago, in *Ogdens* employ.

Taylor, River Dupage, 6 miles from *Naperville, Il.*

Woodville, or *Wood*, from *Syracuse, N. Y.*, to establish N. Paper at *Racine*, near *Milwaukee, Wisconsin*; wears spectacles.

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H. W. Leland

